

From: Phil Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 5:31pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In my opinion, the entire issue regarding the settlement is unjust, un-American, and undue. Microsoft saying that Microsoft acted in an anticompetitive manner is similar to saying that Ford, GM, and Chrysler act in an anticompetitive manner towards RCA, and Motorola when it comes to installing radios in their cars. The browser is a part of an operating system much the same way that a radio is these days a part of a car yet I do not see any antitrust law suits being served to "the big three".

Also, the real reason why Netscape lost to Microsoft had nothing to do with co-mingling code or bundling a product that should be free to begin with. It had everything to do with smart marketing and strong business partnerships. That's not anticompetitive, that's intelligent business. On the whole, the damages due to Netscape should amount to the total salaries of its CEOs, CTOs, and board members for allowing such gross negligence and bad business tactics to go on without proper remedy. The entity responsible for Netscape's demise is none other than the people who failed to run their business properly.

I have always believed that it is not the place of the American Government to prop up dying business -- Certainly, our President will have a lot to answer for if it ever comes to light that he helped to support Enron during it's fall. Or perhaps Enron should simply start suing all those other power utility providers?

With much disgust for the entirety of the 2-year debacle that is nothing more than a repeat of the antitrust case regarding Windows 95/98, I sign this letter in protest to the state's settlement as it stands. Further I will say that destroying Microsoft is of no help to our economy, or to the computer industry. If the legal system must pick an entity to pick on, I say go after AOL-Time-Warner.

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